

CLAIMS

1. A thermal blanket for covering and bathing a person
2 in a thermally-controlled inflating medium, comprising:
a flexible base sheet having a head end, a foot
4 end, two edges, and a plurality of apertures;
an overlaying flexible material sheet attached to
6 a first surface of said base sheet by a plurality of
discontinuous seams which form said overlaying material
8 sheet into a plurality of communicating, inflatable
chambers, said apertures opening through said base
10 sheet into said chambers; and
a continuous seam between said overlaying material
12 sheet and said base sheet at said head end which forms
a non-inflatable viewing area in said blanket at said
14 head end, said non-inflatable viewing area being
substantially coplanar with, or parallel to, said base
16 sheet.
2. The thermal blanket of claim 1 wherein said base
2 sheet includes an undersheet of flexible fibrous material
and a sheet of plastic material coextensive with and
4 attached to said undersheet.
3. The thermal blanket of claim 1 wherein said base
2 sheet includes a multi-layered structure in which the
bottommost layer is a paper sheet bonded to an upper sheet
4 of plastic material.

5. The thermal blanket of claim 2 wherein one of said
2 discontinuous seams includes a sequence of collinear, formed
seals extending from said foot end to said head end.

7. The thermal blanket of claim 1 including an exhaust
2 port opening through said material sheet adjacent one of
said edges for venting an inflating medium from said
4 chambers and away from said base sheet.

8. The thermal blanket of claim 1 including a
2 patterned array of apertures opening through said underside
into said chambers, said patterned array comprising a
4 density pattern in which the density of said apertures
increases toward one of said edges.

9. The thermal blanket of claim 6 including a
2 patterned array of apertures, said apertures opening through
said base sheet into said chambers, said patterned array
4 comprising a density pattern in which the density of said
apertures increases toward on of said edges.

10. The thermal blanket of claim 9 wherein one of said
2 tubular chambers is centrally positioned in said parallel
tubular chambers and said density increases from said
4 centrally positioned chamber toward one of said edges.

11. The thermal blanket of claim 10 wherein no
2 apertures open through said base sheet into said centrally
positioned tubular chamber.

12. The thermal blanket of claim 11 wherein no
2 apertures open through said base sheet into a tubular
chamber adjacent one of said edges.

13. A thermal blanket, comprising:

2 a self-erecting inflatable covering with a head
end, a foot end, two edges, and an undersurface;

4 an inflating inlet adjacent said foot end for
admitting a thermally-controlled inflating medium;

6 an array of apertures in said undersurface for
exhausting a thermally controlled inflating medium from
8 said covering;

10 an exhaust port opening in said inflatable covering
for venting an inflating medium from adjacent an edge
of said inflatable covering and away from said
12 undersurface; and

14 a flat uninflatable section at said head end for
upper body viewing.

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14. The thermal blanket of claim 13, wherein said
2 pattern of said array of apertures increases the density of
said apertures from a central location on said undersurface
4 in a direction toward a first one of said edges.

15. The thermal blanket of claim 14 wherein the
2 pattern of said array of apertures increases the density of
said apertures from said central location in a direction
4 toward the second of said edges.

16. A thermal blanket for covering and bathing a
2 person in a thermally-controlled medium, comprising:
a flexible base sheet having a head end, a foot
4 end, two edges, and a plurality of apertures;
an overlaying plastic sheet attached to a first
6 surface of said base sheet by a plurality of
discontinuous seams which form said plastic sheet into
8 a plurality of communicating inflatable chambers, said
apertures opening through said base sheet into said
10 chambers;
a continuous seam between said plastic sheet and
12 said base sheet at said head end which forms a non-
inflatable viewing recess; and
14 an exhaust vent through said overlaying plastic
sheet and adjacent a first, opening from a first
16 inflatable chamber adjacent said first edge, for
venting an inflating medium away from said base sheet,
18 and away from a second inflatable chamber.

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17. The thermal blanket of claim 16 including an
2 absorbent bib attached to the head end of said base sheet.

18. A thermal blanket for covering and bathing a
2 person in a thermally-controlled medium, comprising:

4 a flexible base sheet having a head end, a foot
end, two edges, and a plurality of apertures;

6 an overlaying plastic sheet attached to a first
surface of said base sheet by a plurality of
8 discontinuous seams which form said plastic sheet into
a plurality of communicating inflatable chambers, said
10 apertures opening through said base sheet into said
chambers;

12 a continuous seam between said plastic sheet and
said base sheet at said head end which forms a non-
inflatable viewing recess; and

14 an absorbent bib attached to the head end of said
base sheet.

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19. A thermal blanket, comprising:

- 2 a self-erecting inflatable covering with a head
- end, a foot end, two edges, and an undersurface;
- 4 an inflating inlet for admitting a thermally-
- controlled inflating medium;
- 6 an array of apertures in said undersurface for
- exhausting a thermally-controlled inflating medium from
- 8 said covering;
- an uninflatable section at said head end for upper
- 10 body viewing; and
- an absorbent bib attached to the head end of said
- 12 inflatable covering.

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